

maintaining the temperature of the stent at a temperature greater than ambient

temperature during the applying step.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the stent is metallic.

Please cancel Claim 3.

4. *The method of Claim 1, wherein the coating substance includes a polymer dissolved in a fluid and optionally an active agent.*

5. (Amended) A method of coating a stent, comprising the acts of:
 applying a composition including a fluid onto a stent;
 directing a gas with a temperature greater than ambient temperature onto the stent subsequent to the application of the composition to induce evaporation of at least a portion of the fluid from the composition; and
 repeating the acts of applying and directing to form multiple layers of the composition on the stent.

Please cancel Claims 6 and 7.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of applying comprises spraying the composition onto the stent.

9. *The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of spraying is performed at a flow rate of about 0.01 mg/sec to about 1 mg/sec.*

10. *The method of Claim 8, wherein the act of spraying is performed for a duration of about 0.5 seconds to about 5 seconds.*

11. *The method of Claim 5, wherein the temperature of the gas is about 25 °C to about 200 °C.*

12. *The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of directing is performed for a duration of about 1 second to about 100 seconds.*

94 JPP
13. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of directing is performed at a flow rate of about $0.01 \text{ m}^3/\text{second}$ to about $1.42 \text{ m}^3/\text{second}$.

14. *The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition includes a polymer dissolved in the fluid and optionally an active agent.*

15. *The method of Claim 14, wherein the active agent is actinomycin D, paclitaxel, docetaxel, or rapamycin.*

16. *The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition additionally includes a radiopaque element or a radioactive isotope.*

90 JPP
17. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising rotating the stent about the longitudinal axis of the stent.

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising moving the stent in a linear direction along the longitudinal axis of the stent.

Please cancel Claim 19.

96 JPP
20. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, wherein the stent is at least partially expanded during the acts of applying and directing.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising heating the stent prior to the act of applying the composition, wherein the temperature of the stent is increased to a temperature greater than ambient temperature and is maintained at a temperature greater than ambient temperature as the composition is applied to the stent.

22. (Amended) A method of coating a stent, comprising the acts of:
spraying onto a stent a composition including a solvent, a polymer dissolved in the solvent, and optionally an active agent;
applying a gas with a temperature greater than ambient temperature onto the stent for a duration of about 1 second to about 100 seconds to remove at least a portion of the solvent from the composition; and

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repeating the acts of spraying and applying to form multiple layers of the composition.

Please cancel Claim 23.

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24. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the temperature that is maintained during application is about 35°C to about 80°C.

25. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the coating substance comprises an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer or poly-n-butyl methacrylate.

26. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein the act of repeating is performed 2 to 41 times.

27. (New) The method of Claim 5, additionally including waiting for a period of about 0.1 seconds to about 5 seconds after application of the composition before directing the gas onto the stent.

28. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer and poly-n-butyl methacrylate.

29. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein during the act of applying about 1 microgram of composition per cm² of stent surface to about 50 micrograms of composition per cm² of stent surface is applied.

30. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the fluid is selected from the group consisting of dimethylsulfoxide, dimethylformamide, and dimethylacetamide and combinations thereof.

31. (New) The method of Claim 21, wherein the temperature that is maintained during application is 35°C to 80°C.

32. (New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the polymer comprises an ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer or poly-n-butyl methacrylate.